

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 23, and beginning with "According to the present invention, . . ." as follows:

A According to the present invention, a signaling network 24 provides signaling information in a network signaling format to a Class 5 softswitch 26. The Class 5 softswitch 26 converts the network signaling format to a media gateway and call session control format. Class 5 softswitch 26 provides the call control, feature activation control, and call accounting intelligence for telecommunications network 10. In the broadband loop emulation services proxy network architecture of telecommunications network 10, Class 5 softswitch 26 is responsible for and has the authority to accept and control both incoming call requests from the network as well as outgoing call requests from customer premises 22. Class 5 softswitch 26 utilizes network signaling to and from the network and the media gateway and call session control format to and from gateway 18 to establish and teardown subscriber calls and invoke call features on existing calls. Gateway 18 receives the media gateway and call session control format from Class 5 softswitch 26 for processing in order to provide signaling information to the BLES network 14. Examples of media gateway and call session control protocols include Signaling Gateway Control Protocol (SGCP), Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP), H.248, H.323, and ~~Signaling~~ Interface Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) signaling standards.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 15, beginning with "In operation, . . ." as follows:

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A In operation, Class 5 softswitch 26 receives signaling information in a network signaling format from signaling network 24. Signaling network 24 is shown using an SS7 network signaling format example but may be configured to use any of a variety of signaling protocols to include international signaling configurations such as the C7 signaling protocol and other signaling protocols such as SIP, Session Initiation Protocol for Telephones (SIP-T) ~~SIP-T~~, Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) ~~BICC~~, and Signaling Transport (SIGTRAN) ~~Sigtran~~. Class 5 softswitch converts the signaling information received in the network signaling format from signaling network 24 to a media gateway and call session control format. The media gateway and call session control format may be any of a variety of such formats including those specified above. The media gateway and call session control format is provided to gateway 18 for conversion to the desired broadband loop emulation service signaling protocol and passed on to IAD 20 at customer premises 22 through BLES network 14.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 7, line 27, and beginning with "FIGURE 2 shows a block diagram of . . ." as follows:

FIGURE 2 shows a block diagram of ~~telecommunications 20~~ a telecommunications network 2 implementing a concentrator technique separate and distinct from the signaling interface of FIGURE 1. Telecommunications ~~network 20~~ network 2 includes PSTN 12, signaling network 24, Class 5 softswitch 26, and gateway 18. Telecommunications ~~network 20~~ network 2 also includes an Internet Protocol (IP) network 30 coupled to various IADs 20 at a plurality of customer premises 22. Gateway 18 receives pulse code modulated voice signals carried over T1 inter-machine trunks (IMT) from PSTN 12. Gateway 18 converts the voice signals to Realtime Transport Protocol (RTP) packets for transmission to appropriate IADs 20 over IP network 30. The IADs 20 receive the RTP packets and convert the information carried therein back to voice signals. Gateway 18 receives signaling information in the media gateway and call session control format from Class 5 softswitch 26. The signaling information assist gateway 18 by identifying which trunk provides the voice signals, which IAD 20 to communicate with, and to connect PSTN 12 to IP network 30. Class 5 softswitch 26 also provides signaling information to IADs 20 over IP network 30 to control individual telecommunications equipment coupled to IADs 20 at customer premises 22.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 16, and beginning with "FIGURE 3 shows a block diagram of . . ." as follows:

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FIGURE 3 shows a block diagram of a telecommunications ~~network—30~~ network 3 incorporating both the signaling interface and concentrator techniques. Gateway 18 can also provide conversion of the broadband loop emulation service signaling protocol to the media gateway and call session control format for transfer of signaling information from Class 5 switch 16 or BLES network 14 to IP network 30. Gateway 18 may also provide the conversion of signaling information from Class 5 switch 16 or BLES network 14 for transfer to Class 5 softswitch 26. Gateway 18 further provides the concentration function discussed above.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 28, beginning with "The signaling interface and concentrator features . . ." as follows:

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The signaling interface and concentrator features provided by gateway 18 discussed above enable service providers to deploy a softswitch architecture together with standards based voice over digital subscriber lines (VoDSL) without requiring the change out of multiple generations of IADs 20. In the first stages of VoDSL deployment, the installed base of VoDSL IADs 20 primarily support asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) based broadband loop emulation services. In order to deploy VoDSL in a next generation softswitch architecture, IADs 20 must be able to support voice over internet protocol (VoIP), MGCP, Media Gateway Control (Megaco)/H.248 ~~h.248/Megaco~~, SIP, among other new telephone features. This would force service providers to do a complete change out of customer premises hardware, resulting in increased costs and disruption of services. Gateway 18 allows service providers to migrate their existing network to next generation packet technologies. Gateway 18 is able to offer service providers the flexibility to deploy VoDSL in a Class 5 derived architecture, a pure softswitch architecture, or a hybrid architecture regardless of the network topology or standards based protocol enabled in IAD 20.

Please amend the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A telecommunications network (10) includes a gateway (18) ~~that receives~~ receiving signaling information in a media gateway and call session control format from a Class 5 softswitch (26). The gateway (18) converts the media gateway and call session control format to a broadband loop emulation service signaling protocol for transfer to integrated access devices (20) at a customer premises (22) through a broadband loop emulation services network (14). The gateway (18) also receives signal information in a broadband loop emulation service signaling protocol from the integrated access devices (20) ~~at the customer premises (22)~~ through the broadband loop emulation services network (14). The gateway (18) converts the broadband loop emulation service signaling protocol to the media gateway and call session control format for transfer to the Class 5 softswitch (26). The Class 5 softswitch (26) places the media gateway and call session control format into a network signal format for transfer over a signaling network (24).